of all States/UTs was held on 18.8.2004 to discuss, *inter alia,* the issue of MRP of medicines. However, as the States did not generally agree to the proposal of either exempting medicines from sales tax or reducing sale tax on medicines to uniform level, no final solution could be found on this issue in the meeting.

Package for FACT, Kerala

208. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a package was admitted by the Central Government and State Government of Kerala for reviving the FACT;

(b) the extent to which the package has been implemented, so far, by the Central Government and the State Government;

(c) whether concessions promised by Government of Kerala was implemented fully; and

(d) the steps proposed to be intiated by Government to sustain the FACT in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The third and long term package for revival of FACT keeping in view its request for writing off the outstanding Government loan of Rs. 609.26 crores as on 31.3.2004 has been initiated by the Government of India. The Union Government has also pursued with the Government of Kerala certain concessions for reduction of State levies/taxes sought by the FACT which would improve its financial conditions. The officials of the Ministry met with the Senior Officers of the Government of Kerala including the Chief Minister of Kerala recently to expedite the concessions.

Irrational combinations

209. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of various irrational combinations being sold;